

PATENT

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FLEXIBLE ARCHITECTURE FOR DERMATOLOGIC TREATMENTS UTILIZING MULTIPLE LIGHT SOURCES

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10 Related Applications

The present application claims benefit from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/540981, filed January 30, 2004, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FLEXIBLE ARCHITECTURE FOR DERMATOLOGICAL TREATMENTS UTILIZING MULTIPLE LIGHT SOURCES, AND FILAMENT LIGHT SOURCE TO BE USED IN

15 COMBINATION WITH THE SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FLEXIBLE
ARCHITECTURE FOR DERMATOLOGICAL TREATMENTS, which is incorporated
herein by reference, and the present application claims benefit from U.S. Provisional Patent
Application Serial No. 60/532,016, filed December 22, 2003, entitled SYSTEM AND
METHOD FOR FLEXIBLE ARCHITECTURE FOR DERMATOLOGIC TREATMENTS
20 UTILIZING MULTIPLE LIGHT SOURCES, which is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system and method of providing for a range of different dermatologic treatments using different light sources.

25 BACKGROUND

High power laser and light source medical treatment devices are generally designed with a power supply, light delivery system and user interface which are optimized for the particular type of laser or light source. A consequence is that manufacturers of such systems develop new consoles for each new laser or light source or treatment modality. Systems compatible with multiple light sources generally make major design compromises. A frequent situation is that a multiple modality laser/light treatment platform may be able to

provide for different treatments from different light sources, but in general the system will require a number of compromises, such that none of the different light sources are operated in a manner which allows them to provide an optimal treatment for the given light source.

It would be beneficial to provide a system which utilizes different light sources, and
5 has the underlying flexibility in terms of a power supply and user interface and safety features, so that the different light sources can be operated to provide a wide range of different types and levels of treatments.

10 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 shows a view of an embodiment of a system herein.

Fig. 2A shows a view of an embodiment of a hand piece management device of a system herein.

Fig. 2B shows a view of an embodiment of a hand piece management device with
15 hand pieces shown in seated positions.

Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of an embodiment of a system herein.

Fig. 4 shows a screenshot from a display of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 5 shows a screenshot from a display of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 6 shows a screenshot from a display of an embodiment herein.

20 Fig. 7 shows a screenshot from a display of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 8A-8B show screenshots from a display of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 9A-9B show screenshots from a display of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 10 shows a screenshot from a display of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 11 shows an embodiment of a system herein.

25 Fig. 12 shows pulses of light energy output by a flashlamp of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 13 shows pulses of light energy output by a flashlamp of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 14 shows a method of an embodiment herein.

Fig. 15 shows a current applied to a filament light source, and power output by a filament light source.

30 Fig. 16 shows an embodiment of a system herein.

Fig. 17 shows screen shot from a display of an embodiment herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An exemplary embodiment herein provides a dermatologic laser/light source
5 treatment system which provides for a great deal of flexibility with respect to the types of
light sources employed. In one embodiment the system provides for a hand piece
management unit which provides for holding different hand pieces which provide light
treatment from different light sources. Additionally, an embodiment of the system includes a
versatile high voltage power supply which allows for the operation of multiple diverse types
10 of light sources. An embodiment of the system herein also includes a detection circuit with
sensors (which sense when one of the hand pieces have been removed from holding areas of
the hand piece management unit) safety functions and a user interface that allows for easily
switching between operation and control of the different light sources.

An embodiment of the system herein includes a flexible and versatile power supply
15 which can drive a wide range of different light sources such as lasers, flash lamps, filament
light sources and LEDS, as well as a range of other possible light sources. Further, this
power supply can output different amounts of electrical energy and different pulse widths to
provide a wide range treatment variations.

In one embodiment a general overview of the design of a system herein would
20 include a main console. This main console could include a frame of aluminum or other
material, and side panels, and different components of the system would be secured inside
the main console. For example, the main console could house the high voltage power supply
for driving the various types of light sources. Coupled to the console are different hand
pieces which are used to apply the light treatments to the patient's skin. Depending on the
25 specific light source and design of the system, a light source can be located in the hand piece
itself, and electrical current can be delivered to the hand piece to cause the light source to
generate light, and a different hand piece could provide for receiving laser light from a laser
source which is housed inside the console itself. By providing for the ability to include a
laser source secured inside the console, a range of different lasers can be utilized, where it is
30 presently not possible to include certain complex high power laser systems in a relatively
small hand piece device.

Fig. 1 shows a system 100, which provides a main console 200. Main console 200 houses an AC connection 12 and electrical mains which receives AC power from the AC connection and provides AC and DC power to the other elements of the system. The main console 200 also includes a coolant system 120, where a coolant system would typically include elements such as a coolant reservoir, pump and heat exchanger. Also included is a high voltage power supply (HVPS) 40 which receives electrical energy from the electrical mains 10, and outputs pulses of electrical energy to drive the different light sources. A controller unit 20 which can include a software EEPROM and/or other elements such as a microcontroller, or possibly a programmable CPU, operates as system control electronics.

5 The main console can also include a laser module 30. A user interface module 210 can be provided as an integral part of the main console 200, or it can be a separate module which is coupled with the main console. The user interface module 210 could be implemented using a number of different displays or user interfaces. In one embodiment the user panel could be computer monitor, or a simple LED number display with turn knobs, or other user input devices. In another embodiment, the user interface is implemented using a high resolution touch screen panel 80, such as provided by Sharp Electronics, of Japan with US headquarters 10 at Mahwah, New Jersey.

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The system 100 also includes a hand piece management unit 220. The hand piece management unit can be coupled to the main console 200 by a support member 110, which 20 can be lowered or removed to transport the system 100. The support member 110 can include conducting signal lines where information derived from sensors (discussed in more detail below) in the hand piece management unit 220 can be transmitted to the control unit 20 in the main console 200.

As shown in Fig. 1 two hand pieces 60 and 62 are shown. Depending on the specific 25 types of treatments desired, the system could be designed to allow for more than two hand pieces. Additionally the system can be designed to allow for at least one of the hand pieces to be removed and replaced with a different hand piece which can deliver a different type of light treatment. In the system shown in Fig. 1, the hand piece 60 can provide a first type of light treatment, and the hand piece 62 can provide a different type of light treatment.

30 Further, in the embodiment of Fig. 1 each of the hand pieces mounts in specified storage positions, or holding areas, in the hand piece management unit 220. Additional aspects

related to the holding of the hand pieces in the hand piece management unit 220 are discussed below.

The system shown in Fig. 1 provides for a flash lamp disposed in the hand piece device 60, and a laser source 30 in the main console 200 provides laser light energy which is 5 delivered via optic fiber 32 to the hand piece 62. Both the flash lamp and the laser 30 are driven by a flexible pulse-width-modulating high voltage power supply 40. Pending patent application (U.S. Application no. 10/135,981, filed January 27, 2003 DERMATOLOGICAL TREATMENT FLASHLAMP DEVICE & METHOD) which is assigned to the assignee of the present application, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, discloses 10 additional details regarding the operation and design of a suitable HVPS. HVPS 40 includes a current direction control device which allows the power supply to direct electrical energy to either the laser module 30 or an external light source in the hand piece 60.

In one embodiment the HVPS 40 can switch between driving a flash lamp, or other light source, including possibly a small flash lamp pumped laser, located in the hand piece 15 device 60 and driving a laser 30 located in the main console 200, without utilizing a power relay, by utilizing a simmer circuit. In one embodiment both light sources (the laser in the main console and the light source in the hand piece) are driven by a flashlamp. In such an embodiment the light source in the hand piece could be either a small flashlamp driven laser, or the handpiece could provide for emitting light energy directly from the flashlamp to the 20 treatment area. In one embodiment a simmer circuit operates to provide a low amount of electrical power to the light source which is be activated. This low amount of electrical power puts the flash lamp in a mode where it is much less resistive than the other light source which has not received the low amount of current from the simmer circuit. Thus, when the high energy current is supplied by the HVPS, the current is transmitted to the light source 25 which received the input from the simmer current. As an alternative, or in addition, to using a simmer circuit to control which of the light sources is activated, a high power relay could be used to direct the output from the HVPS to one of the different light sources. In one embodiment the operation is such that the control unit, after determining that one of the hand pieces has been removed from the hand piece management unit, will cause the simmer circuit 30 to output low level current to the light source which corresponds to the hand piece which has been removed from the hand piece management unit. Further, the control unit operates such

that if both hand pieces are removed from the hand piece management unit, then the control unit will not activate either light source, and will not cause the simmer circuit to output current to either of the light sources.

High power electrical drive currents are conducted from the HVPS 40 via electrical 5 conducting lines 42 or 44, depending on which light source is being driven, or stated differently depending on which treatment modality is active, the driving current will be transmitted by either 42 or 44. A maximum of one light treatment modality is available at a given time. The physical position of the hand pieces 60 and 62 determines which modality may be accessed through the user interface module 210. In one embodiment magnetic 10 sensors embedded in rest positions 70 or 72 send signals to a detection logic circuit 50 located in the hand piece management unit 220. When the hand piece 60 is removed from position 70, the logic circuit 50 will recognize that hand piece 60 is removed, and communicate this to the central control unit 20. The control unit 20 will then control the operation of the system 100 such that the HVPS 40 can only drive the light source in the 15 hand piece 60, and HVPS input to the laser module 30 will be disabled. Conversely, if hand piece 62 is removed from position 72, the external light source in the hand piece 62 is disabled and laser module 30 may be enabled. Should both hand pieces 60 and 62 be removed from positions 70 and 72, neither light source will be driven by the HVPS 40. In one embodiment, the user input module 210 will also indicate which hand piece is removed 20 from a seated position in the hand piece management unit 220, and for a hand piece which is removed from the seated position in the management unit 220, the user interface module 210 will allow a user to access controls for the light source which is applied by the removed hand piece. In one embodiment the user interface module 210 includes a user interface device 25 such as a user-controlled touch screen display 90, which is programmed to allow parameter selections only for the modality compatible with the hand piece which is removed from its seated position.

If both hand pieces are removed from the seated positions in the hand piece management unit 220, the touch screen display 90 can indicate that neither light source can be activated. Further aspects of the control of the system by the touch screen 90 are 30 discussed in detail below.

An example of the operation provides that when the hand piece 60 is removed from position 70, the light source in the hand piece 60 can be activated to generate light energy for a treatment application, in response to a user pressing a ready icon on the user interface, which puts the corresponding light source into a ready mode, and the user then steps on the 5 detachable footswitch 230. Similarly when the hand piece 60 is in position 70 and the hand piece 62 is removed from position 72, the laser source 30 can be activated by pressing a ready icon and then stepping on the footswitch 230.

Laser module 30 supplies laser light to hand piece 62 through optical fiber 32 when HVPS 40 applies energy to the laser module 30. Aspects of different potential embodiments 10 of hand pieces for delivering laser light delivered via an optical fiber are shown in U.S. Patent no. 6,383,176 and U.S. Patent no. 6,485,484, and both of the patents are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Additionally, a cooling fluid from the coolant system 120, control signals to and from control unit 20, and thermo-electric cooler electrical drivelines are routed to laser hand piece 62 through umbilical cable 132. In one embodiment 15 the laser module 30 is an Nd:YAG laser outputting 1064nm energy. Other flash lamp-pumped, or arc lamp pumped, lasers may be substituted, operating at other wavelengths or laser parameters for providing different dermatologic treatments.

While laser hand piece 62 is designed to deliver laser light which is transmitted via an optic fiber, external hand piece 60 can be configured to deliver flash lamp light or other, even 20 laser, light sources which are mounted inside the hand piece. Cooling fluid from the coolant system 120, high voltage – high current electrical drive lines 42, low voltage thermoelectric cooler electrical lines and control signal lines 43 and various I/O and sensing lines can be routed from the main console 200 to the hand piece 60 through an umbilical cable 130. In one embodiment the hand piece delivers filtered flash lamp light through a contact window. 25 Detailed discussion of some exemplary possible types of such a hand pieces are provided in commonly assigned currently pending patent application (US patent application no. 10/351,981, filed January 27, 2003 which is incorporated herein). The external hand piece 60 is coupled to the umbilical cable 130 which carries power, coolant and sensing lines, and the connector 230 operates to couple these lines with the elements of the main console 200. 30 This approach of providing a connector 230 and umbilical cable 130 allows a variety of externally generated light sources to be used to apply different types of treatment, without the

necessity of replacing the laser module 30 or altering the HVPS 40. Different control operations corresponding to different energy sources in different external hand pieces can be programmed into the control unit 20. A wide range of different light sources could be included in different hand pieces, such additional light sources could include different types 5 of flash or arc lamps for direct lamp treatments, a small flash lamp-driven laser system could also be disposed in a hand piece. Such a design would allow for providing for low powered lasers or for wavelengths that would complement the relatively high powered internal laser module 30. Additionally, non-flash lamp, non-laser sources could be implemented in different versions of hand piece 60, such as filament incandescent lamps, LED arrays, 10 semiconductor diode laser arrays or diode-pumped lasers. The utilization of an HVPS which is able to output a range of different types of driving voltages, and currents, having different pulse widths etc., and the utilization of a flexible and programmable user interface, allows for the addition of a range of different hand pieces.

User detachable hand piece 60 is disconnected from the main console, by unplugging 15 connector 230 from a mating connector 102 of the user interface module 210. Connectors for other hand pieces 60 could be coupled to the connector 102, or a “dummy plug” may be installed to satisfy coolant and electrical interlock or connection requirements for safety and cooling system functioning. Connector 230 contains a non-volatile memory device that contains information for hand piece identification, operational history such as shot history, 20 calibration data, and hand piece configuration data. This non-volatile memory might alternatively be located inside the hand piece itself. The calibration data records can include data from photometric signals from photodetectors in the hand piece 60, where these photodetectors operate to sense the amount of energy output by the light source. By providing a sensing device which directly detects the amount of energy output by the light 25 source, the interchangeable use of hand pieces from one system to another system can be enhanced. Specifically the amount of energy detected allows for slight differences in the electrical drive power from the HVPS of different main consoles to be detected, as these differences are reflected in the amount of energy output by the light source. This ensures that the delivered power or energy is controlled independent of console, and is distinct from 30 simply storing the electrical characteristics of a light-generating hand piece during a calibration step at the factory or by a service technician.

Figs. 2A and 2B show views of an embodiment of a hand piece management unit 200. In Fig. 2A the hand piece management unit is shown with no hand pieces seated in the hand piece management unit. In Fig. 2B a hand piece 202 and a second hand piece 204 are shown in seated positions in the hand piece management unit 220. The hand piece 5 management unit has a first receptacle area 206 which is shaped to receive the hand piece 202, so that the hand piece 202 can be seated in the hand piece management unit. The hand piece management unit has a second receptacle area 208 which is shaped to receive the hand piece 204 so that hand piece 204 can be seated in the hand piece management unit 200. Other aspects of the hand piece management unit discussed above in connection with Fig. 1 10 would be included in the hand piece management unit shown in Fig. 2. For example sensors would be included so that a detection circuit could determine when the hand pieces are seated in the hand piece management unit, and when one or both of the hand pieces are unseated from the hand management unit. The detection circuit would then generate signals which would be transmitted via control lines disposed in the support member 214 to the control unit 15 of the main console to indicate which of the hand pieces are seated in the hand management unit. In addition the hand piece management unit 200 includes indicator lights 210 and 212. When the sensor of the hand piece management unit 200 determines that one of the hand pieces has been removed from the position in the hand management unit 200, the detection circuit will activate the corresponding light to indicate that the removed hand piece is not in 20 its seated position. For example, when hand piece device 204 is removed from the seated in position in area 208 the light 212 will be activated.

The shape of the hand piece device 204 is designed to provide for the delivery of laser light through an optic fiber to a dermatologic treatment area. The shape of the hand piece 202 is designed to among other things accommodate the mounting of light generating source 25 such as for example flash lamps, flash lamp pumped lasers, arc lamps, incandescent lamps, LED arrays, semiconductor (diode) laser arrays, and diode laser pumped lasers.

The modularity of the hand piece design, and the design of the hand piece management unit, the user interface module, and the programming of the control unit and the flexible operation of the HVPS are consistent with providing a platform which can utilize a 30 range of different flash lamp hand pieces. One exemplary user-detachable hand piece includes a filtered xenon flash lamp directed through a temperature controlled sapphire

window that contacts the skin for pigmented lesion treatments. The interface between the hand piece and connector on the console allows the supply of high voltage, high current electrical power, coolant flows of several liters per minute, and a number of control and monitoring electrical lines. A “dummy” hand piece allows operation without an actual 5 functioning hand piece connected, in the event that a working hand piece is not available, or is not desired.

The hand piece management unit in operation with the main console and the user interface module provides for intuitive and sophisticated control of functions and treatments, and a range of safety features. For example, in one embodiment if one hand piece is lifted, 10 the user cannot use a user interface touch screen to select the control window for the other hand piece that remains seated in the hand piece management unit. Also, the seated hand piece is disabled so that inadvertently firing it is not possible. Sensors in the hand management unit detect the presence of a seated hand piece. It is not physically possible to mismatch hand piece and mounting position because of the geometric shapes of the hand 15 pieces and the shapes of the seating areas of the hand piece management unit.

Fig. 3 shows a perspective view an embodiment of a system 300 herein. The main console 302 contains the elements described above in connection with Fig. 1. A user interface module 304 is coupled to the main console 302. In one embodiment a touch screen 306 display is provided in the user interface module. An umbilical cable 314 couples the 20 hand piece 316 to the main console. Another umbilical cable 312 and user detachable connector 310 couple the hand piece 318 with the main console via the user interface module. The user interface panel can also include a key activation element 308, where a user of the system will have to insert a key in order to turn on and power up the system.

Figs. 4 – 10 show exemplary screenshots from a touch screen display 306 which 25 illustrate the operation of an embodiment of a system. Fig. 4 shows a screenshot 400 which shows an icon 402 which corresponds to a hand piece which is shaped to accommodate a light source such as flash lamp. Also shown is an icon 404 which corresponds to the hand piece which delivers laser light from the laser source which is mounted inside of the main console. As will become clear when the screenshot 400 is compared with the screenshot 500 30 of Fig. 5 for example, both icons 402 and 404 are highlighted, or shown in a manner which indicates that both of the hand pieces in seated positions in the hand piece management unit.

Screenshot 500 shows icons 402 and 404, which is similar to screenshot 400, except in screenshot 500 the icon 404 is shown to be highlighted relative to the icon 402. This highlighting of icon 404 relative to icon 402 indicates that the hand piece corresponding to icon 404 has been removed from the seated position in the hand piece management unit, 5 while the hand piece corresponding to icon 402 remains in its seated position.

In this embodiment a user can activate control functions for the light treatments applied by the hand pieces by pressing a finger on a touch screen display position which shows the icon of the hand piece a user desires to control. In screenshot 400, where both icons 402 and 404 are shown as high-lighted, and both of the hand pieces are in the seated, or 10 storage, positions, a user can select to input control instruction for either of the hand piece treatment devices. In screenshot 500 where the hand piece icon 404 is highlighted, which indicates that it has been removed from the seated position, the user can press on the touch screen display at icon 404, and in response to pressing on the icon 404 a control interface for the laser source in mounted in the main console is provided. However, when the icon 404 is 15 highlighted, and the icon 402 is not highlighted, the user will not be able to access the control interface for the hand piece 402. If in response to a screen 500 the user were to select the icon 402, the system could be programmed to either provide no response, or the system could be programmed to indicate to the user that the control of the selected hand piece cannot be accessed while it is in the seated position and the other hand piece is removed from the 20 seated position. By blocking access to the control functions of a hand piece when it is seated and the other hand piece is removed, the risk of a user confusing the control of the two hand pieces is reduced. Thus, the risk of a user inputting controls for the light source of hand piece 404, but then firing the light source of hand piece 402 is significantly reduced.

It should be mentioned that the operation and control of the touch screen could be 25 implemented in a number of different ways, in one embodiment the control unit in the main console would act to provide control over the touch screen display, and to receive and process user input through the touch screen. Further, given that the user detachable hand piece 402 can be switched with an array of other types of hand pieces, the control unit can be programmed to recognize the specific types of hand pieces and light sources which are 30 coupled to the main console, and to generate a user control interface which corresponds to the type of light source which is currently being used.

Fig. 6 shows a screenshot 600 which is similar to screenshots 400 and 500, but screenshot 600 corresponds to a situation which the user removable hand piece 402 has been removed from the seated position, and the laser hand piece remains in the seated position. In this situation the icon 402 is highlighted relative to the icon 404. In a manner similar to that 5 described above a user can access a control interface for the device of icon 402 by pressing on the touch screen at a position which corresponds to icon 402.

When both of the hand pieces are in the seated position the user can access the control interface for either of the hand pieces, but the user will not be able to cause the discharge of the light source from the hand pieces, until one of the desired hand pieces has been removed 10 from its seated position in the hand piece management unit, and the ready control (discussed below) is selected to put the light source in a ready mode. It should also be noted that as shown in each of the screenshots an icon “i” 406 is shown in the screenshots. A user can select this icon by pressing on the touch screen, and in response information about the system and the hand piece devices and their corresponding light sources will be displayed. Fig. 10 15 shows an exemplary screenshot 1000 of an information screenshot which can be displayed in response to selecting the icon 406, and will be discussed in more detail later.

Fig. 7 shows a screenshot 700 where both hand piece icons 402 and 404 are shown as not being highlighted. This screenshot would be displayed in a situation where both hand pieces 402 and 404 have been removed from their seated positions in the hand piece 20 management unit. In this situation a user cannot access the control interface for light sources of either of the hand pieces. Additionally, the control unit of the main console will recognize that both of the hand pieces have been removed from the seated positions in the hand piece management unit, and will prevent the HVPS from driving the light sources for the hand pieces. This operation reduces the risk that would otherwise be present in a situation where a 25 user had removed both hand pieces and then attempted to activate a light source, and might inadvertently activate a light source where the corresponding hand piece is not in a safe position to be activated. For example, the intensity of the generated light could cause an eye injury where a user or patient was looking at the light discharge area.

Figs. 8A-8B show screenshot 800 which corresponds to a user interface for 30 controlling the light source of the removable hand piece 402. In one embodiment this screenshot could be displayed in the situation where the hand piece 402 is removed from the

seated position in the hand piece management unit, and the hand piece 404 remains in its seated position, or where both the hand pieces are held in their seated positions in the hand piece management unit, and in either of the these two situations the user presses on the icon corresponding to the hand piece 402. (In the situation where both of the hand pieces are in 5 the seated position, and the user presses on the icon corresponding to the hand piece 402 the ready button icon would be disabled, so that the power supply would not activate the hand piece 402 while it is in the seated position.) In the screenshot 800 the screenshot shows controls for a flash lamp light source positioned in the hand piece. A fluence control area 802 of the screenshot provides up and down arrows 804 and 806 where a user can increase 10 the fluence output by the flash lamp. A pulse repetition rate area 808 provides up and down arrows 810 and 812 where a user can increase or decrease the rate of pulses of light output by the flash lamp. A count area 822 shows the count for the number of exposures which have provided by the flash lamp (this information can be important for system servicing and maintenance). A small hand piece icon 814 is provided in the screenshot 800 to make it 15 intuitively clear to a user as to which hand piece the control interface applies. A return back icon 816 is provided, which allows a user to return to a previous screen by pressing on the icon 816. A standby icon 818 allows a user to put the system in a standby mode by pressing on the standby icon 818. A ready icon 820 allows a user to take the system out of standby mode, by pressing on the ready icon 820. The ready icon 820 would be disabled so that a 20 user could not put the light source for the hand piece in a ready mode, until the hand piece is removed from the hand piece management unit. In response to a user pressing on the ready icon, the standby icon will become unhighlighted, and the ready icon 820 will be highlighted. Fig. 8A shows the screen shot 800 with the system in a standby mode, and Fig. 8B shows the screen shot 800 with the ready icon 820 highlighted, which indicates that the system light 25 source is now ready to be activated by stepping on the foot switch. Initially the system will need to prepare to provide power to the light source; once the system is ready to drive the light source, the ready icon can change color, for example, it could change from yellow to green. At this point if the user steps on the activation pedal the HVPS will drive the flash lamp according to the input parameters shown in the screenshot 800.

30 Figs. 9A-9B show a screenshot 900 where a user has pressed on hand piece icon 404 when the hand piece 404 has been removed from its seated position in the hand piece

management unit, or when both hand pieces are in their seated positions in the hand piece management unit. The screenshot 900 provides a control interface for the laser light source disposed in the main console. The screenshot 900 shows an icon 902 which corresponds to the hand piece which delivers light from the laser light source in the main console. The 5 screenshot 900 provides a fluence control area 904 with up and down arrows where a user can increase or decrease the fluence by pressing on the up and down arrows. A pulse width control area 906 provides up and down arrows where a user can increase or decrease the pulse width by pressing on the up and down arrows. A pulse frequency control area 908 provides up and down arrows where a user can increase or decrease the frequency of light 10 exposures output by the laser source. The screenshot 900 also provides a return back icon 910, a exposure count area 912, a ready icon 914, and a standby icon 915 which operate in a manner similar to that described in connection with Fig. 8. Fig. 9A shows the screen shot with the 915 standby icon highlighted, which indicates that the system is in standby mode, and Fig. 9B shows the screen shot with ready icon 914 highlighted which indicates that the 15 system is in a ready mode. Additionally, screenshot 900 provides an aim control mode area 916. In one embodiment the hand piece 404 which delivers energy from the laser source provides an aiming guide light which shows the user the position on the patient's skin where the laser light will be applied. The aiming guide light can be operated at different intensity levels, and can be operated in an intermittent or continuous mode. The screenshot 900 also 20 provides a spot size control area 918 where a user can select different spot sizes for the laser light which is applied to the patient during treatment.

Fig. 10 shows a screenshot 1000 which can be displayed in response to a user pressing on the information icon 406 which is shown in screenshot 400 for example. Screenshot 1000, provides a speaker volume control area for the system 1002, where the user 25 can increase or decrease the volume of sound coming from speakers which could be included in the system. A screen intensity control area 1004 allows the user to control the screen display intensity. A removable hand piece display information area 1005 shows information about the removable hand piece. This information can include an identification number or serial number for the hand piece. This information can also include an area 1006 showing 30 the number of high fluence exposures which have been generated by the light source in hand

piece. The information can also include an area 1008 showing the number of low fluence exposures which have been generated by the light source in hand piece.

The removable hand piece information area 1005 can also include icons which indicate the number of different types of treatment which are possible using the different 5 types of possible removable hand pieces. For example where pigment icon 1010 is highlighted, this would indicate that the removable hand piece connected to the system is suitable for providing pigment treatment. Where hair icon 1012 is highlighted, this would indicate that the removable hand piece connected to the system is suitable for providing hair removal treatment. Where vascular icon 1014 is highlighted, this would indicate that the 10 removable hand piece connected to the system is suitable for providing vascular treatment. A laser hand piece device information area 1016 provides information showing the number of exposures delivered by the laser in the main console, under different operating modes.

General system information area 1018 provides information showing information about different elements of the system. For example, icon 1020 shows that the programming 15 of the control unit of the main console corresponds to version 1.0.0; icon 1022 shows that the version of the user interface module is 1.0.0; and icon 1024 shows that the programming for controlling a cooling loop of the handpieces.

Fig. 11 illustrates a system 1100 an embodiment herein. As shown a power supply 1106 is coupled with two different light sources 1104 and 1110. In one embodiment the 20 power supply uses a controlled chopper circuit with an inductive filter element 1126, operating in a pulse width modulated controlled current mode (in which the current is controlled and the voltage is determined by the device impedance and the impedance of the filter). Power supply 1106 could be also operated in a pulse width modulated controlled voltage mode (in which the voltage is controlled and the current is not controlled) or in a 25 controlled power mode (in which the voltage and/or current are controlled in a manner resulting in controlled power).

As shown system 1100 illustrates a situation where a removable hand piece 1102 having a flashlamp 1104 is coupled to main console and the power supply 1106, and when activated removable hand piece applies energy from the flashlamp 1104 to the patient's skin. 30 The system also includes a high power laser 1108 which can be housed in the main console as discussed above. As is known lasers such as Nd:Yag lasers can be driven by a flashlamp.

The high power laser 1108 includes a flashlamp 1110 and other components 1136, such as optical components which operate to generate and output coherent light in response to light output by the flashlamp. Indeed, dedicated chopper circuit power supplies have in the past been used to drive flashlamp pumped lasers. However, the design of an embodiment herein

5 offers significant advantages over prior systems in that it provides the ability to control the power supply such that a single power supply is coupled with multiple light sources, and operated to provide for a wide range of different electrical pulses for different light sources, and to recognize which type of light source connected, and to direct electrical energy to a selected light source. An embodiment herein offers advantages in that it allows for a system
10 with a single power supply to operate numerous light sources providing a variety of different treatments. In an embodiment herein, the controller of the power supply 1112 receives signals originating from the user interface 1114 and sensors in the hand piece management unit 1116 and based on these signals determine which flashlamp should be driven when a user initiates the activation of the power supply.

15 The operation of the power supply will be described in the context of the situation where a user has removed the removable handpiece 1102 from the hand piece management unit, and initiated the activation of the light source of the removable hand piece. In this situation when the hand piece 1102 is removed from the hand piece management unit, and put it in ready mode, the controller 1112 will cause the simmer circuit 1120 to put the light
20 source 1104 in an operational conductive mode, and the flashlamp 1110 of the higher power laser 1108 will remain in a highly resistive mode, as discussed above. Alternatively, or in addition, see discussion of Fig. 16 below, a high power switch or relay could be used to direct energy to the selected light source.

25 The energy storage capacitor 1122 is charged by the main electrical supply 1134 to a level allowing the desired energy to be delivered without unacceptable lamp voltage droop, where driving the flashlamp, at the desired current. When switch 1124 is closed current ramps up current through lamp 1104, inductor 1126, and switch 1124. When the appropriate current is reached, the controller 1112 opens the switch 1124 and the current now diverts to the diode 1128. When the current flow decays to an appropriate level (typically 75% of the
30 peak value) the controller 1112 again turns on the switch 1124 and the cycle repeats until a pulse is complete.

This toggling of switch 1124 on and off during a single pulse 1202 creates a slight ripple in pulse 1202 as indicated in Fig. 12. The operation of the power supply 1106 in a controlled power mode refers to both the electrical energy delivered to lamp 1104 and the resulting controlled optical power from lamp 1104. Current sensor 1130 and photodiode 5 1132 can be used independently or in concert to control the optical power delivered to skin. A current sensor 1131 and photodiode 1133 can also be provided for controlling the operation of the power supply when it is driving the flashlamp 1102 of the high power laser 1108. The treatment waveform of the optical energy created by lamp 1104 corresponds generally to the waveform of the electrical energy delivered by power supply 1106 to lamp 10 1104.

Lamp life can be a concern in high energy flashlamp systems. Instead of using a treatment waveform comprising one large pulse tens of milliseconds long, according to an embodiment herein, the power supply 1106 can modulate the lamp power in such a manner that the treatment waveform comprises many shorter, high power, but relatively low energy, 15 pulses with small gaps between them. The gaps decrease the maximum thermal load and plasma discharge wall loading power by allowing the plasma to thermally relax between each shorter pulse. This reduced loading should result in longer lamp life. For example, instead of supplying a flashlamp with a treatment waveform comprising a single pulse 15 -- 20 ms long, the flashlamp can be supplied with, for example, a treatment waveform comprising one or 20 more of the following power pulse sequences: 8 power pulses each 2 ms long separated gaps approximately 0.6 ms long; 4 power pulses each 4 ms long separated gaps 0.75 ms long; 16 power pulses each 1 ms long separated gaps 0.25 ms long; 2 power pulses each 9 ms long separated gaps 2 ms long. In addition, a power pulse sequence may include power pulses of different durations separated by the same or different length gaps or of power pulses of equal 25 durations separated by different length gaps.

In the present invention, the controllable power supply using the switch, allows for current controlled operation of a light source. In current controlled operation, the power supply operates to control the amount of current, and allows for a range of different flashlamps to be used, where the power supply can adjust its operation to supply a desired 30 amount of current for the flashlamp; thus a range of different flashlamps having different impedance values can be used, as the lamp does not determine the amount of current that the

power supply will deliver to the lamp. This has several consequences: A short flashlamp arc length (or any other length) relative to the aperture length can be used, thereby matching the desired treatment type and size, with attendant increase in electrical-to-optical efficiency, a reduced stored energy requirement, and a more ergonomic handpiece design through a 5 reduction in the required lamp dimensions. Further, the flexibility of the power supply allows for development of different handpieces having different sizes, and apertures, and using a range of different types of light sources, including a range of different types of flashlamps.

The ability to control the power allows for a wide range of pulse amplitudes and 10 widths. Arbitrary waveform generation is possible using power supply 1106 but is not possible with PFN (a pulse forming network) or RDC (reservoir discharge) circuits. The range over which arbitrary lamp currents can be set with the power supply is typically 10:1, which can be selected within one pulse. RDC circuits can only set up for one current during a pulse and must accept the voltage and current droop associated with energy depletion of the 15 storage capacitor. Capacitor voltage drops do not affect output power as in the RDC circuit. This allows constant power pulses 1202 to be generated with less stored energy. In a preferred design the capacitor voltage can drop by 50% before output power is affected at all. In a typical RDC design a capacitor voltage drop of 50% results in an 87% reduction in output peak power.

20 Fig. 13 illustrates a treatment waveform comprising an arbitrary pulse train, consisting of several pulses 1302, 1304, 1306 of selected amplitudes, durations, intervals etc., to achieve the most effective treatment. In this example, successive pulses increase in amplitude in a potentially useful therapeutic treatment. Some pulse widths and constant or near-constant pulse amplitude (light intensity) combinations can be achieved with a 25 controlled current source, such as power supply 1106, that the PFN and RDC circuits either cannot achieve or require an impractical or uneconomical energy storage bank. For example in one embodiment, pulse widths >5ms in combination with fluences in the >10J/cm² range are achievable with power supply 1106.

Different removable hand pieces 1102 can be used, by coupling different hand pieces 30 to the connector of main console as described above. The removable hand piece to be connected can be selected according to the particular procedure to be conducted and the

width (dimension) of the treatment area. Using the user interface, the user may input one or more parameters, such as pulse width or widths, the optical fluence for each pulse, the period between pulses (which may be the same or different), the number of pulses delivered each time foot switch is depressed, and pulse shape, etc. As discussed above, power supply 1106 of assembly of the system 1100 can be a chopper circuit with an inductive filter operating as a pulse width modulated current supply, and may also operate as a pulse width modulated optical power regulated supply.

In one embodiment, the waveform selected may have a generally constant current value equivalent to an optical fluence of at least about 1 J/cm² (such as for narrow notch filter treatment of superficial lentigines in heavily pigmented skin) or at least about 4 J/cm² (such as for lighter skin) or at least about 10 J/cm² (such as for light lentigines in light skin). Also, a specific spectral range may influence the optical fluence so that, for example, the optical fluence for the output light treatment hand piece embodiment would typically not go above about 10 J/cm² and the long wavelength pass embodiment would typically not be used below about 3 J/cm². The waveform selected may also have a generally constant current value equivalent to an optical peak power producing a total fluence of between about 2 and 50 J/cm². The waveform selected may have a generally constant current value equivalent to an optical fluence of at least about 10 J/cm² with a pulse width of at least about 5ms. The waveform may be selected to have a generally constant current value with a pulse width of about 1 to 300ms, or about 5 to 50ms, or about 10 to 30ms. The waveform selected may have a generally constant current value and may be substantially independent of pulse width and repetition rate. The settings will depend upon various factors including the type of treatment, the size of the lesion, the degree of pigmentation in the target lesion, the skin color or phototype of the patient, the location of the lesion, and the patient's pain threshold. Some or all of the operational parameters may be pre-set and not be user-settable. In particular, the bandwidth spectrum, such as 590-1100nm, 590-850 nm, and 590-700nm, will generally be fixed for a particular removable handpiece. However, it may be possible to construct a handpiece so that appropriate wavelength filters and reflectors may be changed by the user to change the wavelength of the output radiation.

The above discussion illustrates the advantages of using a highly controllable power supply to drive a variety of different removable flashlamp or laser handpieces. However, it

should be recognized that further advantages are obtained using such a power supply. For, example, consider the situation where a user has the removable hand piece seated in the hand piece management module, and removes the second hand piece which delivers light from the high power laser 1108, and puts the high power laser in ready mode. In this situation the

5 controller 1112 will receive signals originating from sensors in the hand piece management unit 1116 and the user interface 1114, and in response to these signals put the simmer circuit 1120 and flashlamp driving the high power laser 1108 in to an operating conductive mode, and the light source in the removable hand piece will be in a nonoperative mode. The power supply 1106 can then control provide energy to drive the flashlamp of the high power laser.

10 In this situation the parameters of the electrical energy can be controlled so that they provide for optimum operation of the high power laser for the specific treatment being applied.

Additionally, the controllable power supply is operable to drive other types of light sources which can be supplied in different removable handpieces. For example, one additional hand piece includes a filament light source which is suited for outputting a broad range of electromagnetic energy including near infrared and infrared energy which is difficult to achieve with flashlamps. This infrared and near infrared energy is useful for providing treatments such as collagen shrinkage through dermal heating. Additional aspects of hand piece using a filament light source are described in US provisional patent application no. 60/497,745 filed August 25, 2003, entitled, OPTICAL DEVICE FOR HEATING SKIN

20 USING NIR LIGHT TO PRODUCE TISSUE SHRINKAGE, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The general operation of the system is that the user would remove the hand piece with the filament light source; and the user interface would display a screen which allows the user to input a total amount of fluence for a treatment exposure. An example of such a screen

25 1700 is shown in Fig. 17. The controller would then determine a total length for a treatment exposure, and then control the power supply to drive the filament lamp for an appropriate amount of time. In driving the filament light source pulses of electrical current are applied to the filament light source which are of different amplitude and duration than the pulses which are used to drive flashlamps. Fig. 15 shows the current output for driving a filament light

30 source, and the corresponding power output 1510 by the filament light source, which would be disposed in a removable handpiece in one embodiment herein. In this example a filament

light source would be driven with an initial pulse 1508 of electrical current having a duration of 100 ms, and an current amplitude of 50A, and then subsequent pulses 1502 and 1504 of electrical current having a pulse widths of 1-2 ms. Of course depending on the desired operation of the system pulse widths of greater or less than 1-2ms could also be used, and the 5 frequency of the pulses could be increased or decreased. The long initial pulse 1508 is used to initially heat the filament light source. Rather than an initial long pulse, a series of relatively closely spaced short pulses could also be used to initially heat the filament. Pulses 1502 show 1 ms pulses and 1504 shows a 2 ms pulse, the duration between pulses can be varied based on a signal from a photodetector which would sense the output power of the 10 energy output by the filament light source. In one embodiment for example the applied electrical pulse would be such the output of power from the filament light would be $\pm 1.5\%$ of 16 watts. Thus, when the photodetector sensed the power output dropped to a threshold level a 1 ms pulse of 50 A would be applied to the filament light source. As shown in Fig. 15 each pulse of current would have result in a corresponding voltage applied to the filament 15 light source. The output power from the filament light source is shown in Fig. 15 as detected by a photodetector as curve 1510. The area 1512 is a break in the time line, during which additional pulses would continue to be applied to the filament light source. The operation of the filament light source is such that it will continue to output electromagnetic energy for so long as the filament remains sufficiently hot. Thus, the curve 1510 shows that optical power 20 continues to be output by the filament light source even after the pulses of electrical current are no longer being supplied to the filament light source. In the example, shown in Fig. 15 for example where the last electrical pulse is applied at 2.5 seconds, the filament light source would continue to output a significant amount of output power up to about 3.4 seconds.

The above described operation of the power supply driving a filament light source, 25 illustrates an aspect of an embodiment of the present system. Specifically, a filament light source is normally considered a relatively low current, low voltage device. However, the filament light source can be driven with the same power supply which is used to supply high current and high voltage that is required to drive a flashlamp. As described above the ability to control the power supply to short pulses of relatively high current, allows for the 30 controllable power supply to drive the filament light source in a manner for providing effective treatments.

The filament can also be driven continuously by a supply, it is not a requirement to pulse the filament current at intervals during the treatment. This was actually a method developed to obtain filament capability using the same power supply that drives flashlamps. Other variations and different methods could be utilized such as providing a higher current 5 during the preheat phase of the pulse, in order to bring the lamp up to heat quickly. This could be combined into one long pulse with higher current in the beginning and lower current at the end. An alternate control method would be to control the voltage applied to the lamp. The voltage would ramp up at a controlled rate to limit the inrush current. Alternately the voltage control would be a step applied and the current limit of the supply would limit the 10 current.

Fig. 14 is a flow chart illustrating a method of an embodiment herein. At 1402 a determination is made that a hand piece is removed from the hand piece management unit. A determination 1404 is then made if more than one of the hand pieces is removed. If more than one hand piece is removed than the operation of the system is put into a safe mode 1406 so that none of the light sources can be activated. If a determination is made that only one hand piece has been removed 1408, then the operation toward activation of the light source of the removed hand piece can proceed. If only one hand piece is removed then the hand piece and its corresponding light source are identified 1410. The appropriate user interface for the removed hand piece and its light source is displayed 1412. Based on the user input to 15 the user interface treatment parameters such as fluence, pulse duration, number of pulses, as maybe appropriate for the light source are determined 1114. Based on the treatment parameters, the electrical energy to be applied to the light source is determined 1416. In response to user input the light source for the hand piece is put into ready mode 1418. The controller for the power supply, or another processor for the system can be loaded with 20 different algorithms and data for determining electrical output by the power supply. The controller of the power supply will then output electrical energy to drive the light source 1420 in response to a user input, such as stepping on a foot switch. Further the operation of the power supply can be modified based on signals received from different sensors such as current sensors, photodetectors and temperature detectors.

30 Fig. 16 shows another embodiment of a system 1600. The system 1600 is very similar to the system discussed in connection with Fig. 11. The operation of most of the

elements in the system 1600 is illustrated in connection with the discussion of the corresponding elements shown in the system 1100 of Fig. 11. However, Fig. 16 provides for one additional component which power relay or switch 1118 which is provided in series with the light source 1104 of the removable handpiece 1102. In one embodiment when the

5 controller determines that the removable handpiece 1102 coupled to the power supply includes a flashlamp type of light source, then the switch 1118 will remain in a closed position, and the controller will use the simmer circuit to direct the current to either of the flashlamps 1102 or 1104, in the manner described above. If it is determined that the light source of the removable handpiece is another type of light source, such as a filament lamp,
10 then the simmer may not provide an effective way to control the output of power from the power supply 1106. This is because when the filament light source is coupled to the high power output of the power supply the filament will represent a very low impedance across the output of the power supply, and the operation of the simmer circuit would not operate to raise or lower the impedance of the filament, as it does in the case of a flashlamp. Thus,
15 system 1600 provides a switch 1118 which the controller 1112 can control. When the controller 1112 senses that the filament light source is coupled to the system, and that the user of the system desires to drive the filament light source, then the controller will close the switch 1118, and in response to a user input, apply power to the filament light source. Conversely, when the filament light source is connected to the system, but the controller
20 determines that the user desires to drive the high power laser, the controller will open the switch 1118, and put the flashlamp 1102 in conductive mode using the simmer circuit 1120.

One of the advantages of using a controllable power supply is that the power supply can be programmed for a wide range of different light sources, and as new light sources and treatments are developed the controller of the power supply can be programmed, or otherwise
25 controlled to output a wide range of different electrical pulses as may be most beneficial for a particular treatment using a particular light source.

While various embodiments of the present invention have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example, and not limitation. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art that various changes in form and detail
30 may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. This is especially true in light of technology and terms within the relevant art(s) that may be later

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developed. Thus, the present invention should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.